

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 OMB-01 IO-14 EB-11

SCCT-02 AID-20 SAM-01 DRC-01 /125 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4727

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, JA, KS, KN

SUBJECT: DOMESTIC RESPONSE TO SHIINA VISIT TO SEOUL

SUMMARY: WHILE RELIEVED THAT GOJ/ROK STANDOFF HAS BEEN RESOLVED BY SHIINA VISIT, JAPANESE PRESS HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT CRITICAL OF WHAT IT VIEWS AS MAJOR CONCESSIONS BY JAPANESE SIDE, ESPECIALLY THOSE REGARDING CHOSEN SOREN. MEDIA SPECULATION AND ONGOING OPPOSITION ACTIVITIES INDICATE THAT KOREAN ISSUE WILL BE SUBJECT OF CONTINUING DEBATE IN MONTHS AHEAD, BOTH IN AND OUT OF DIET. END SUMMARY.

1. WHILE JAPANESE NEWSPAPERS DESCRIBE SHIINA VISIT TO SEOUL AND TRANSMISSION OF TANAKA LETTER AS HAVING AVERTED SERIOUS BREACH IN JAPAN-ROK RELATIONS, THEY FEEL PROBLEMS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES ARE LONG WAY FROM BEING RESOLVED. MOREOVER, THEY TEND TO BE CRITICAL OF WHAT THEY CONSIDER AS OVERLY GENEROUS CONCESSIONS ON PART OF GOJ IN RESPONDING TO ROK DEMANDS REGARDING TANAKA LETTER AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACCOMPANYING EXPLANATION.

2. MEDIA COMMENTATORS HAVE ZEROED IN ON MANNER IN WHICH CONTENT OF TANAKA LETTER NEGOTIATED IN ADVANCE AND CONSIDER IT UNFORTUNATE PRECEDENT FOR FUTURE CONDUCT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. THEY ALSO SEEM TO FEEL GOJ FAILED TO STRESS SUFFICIENTLY RESTRAINTS OF JAPANESE DOMESTIC LAW AND, BY SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO CHOSEN SOREN IN "EXPLANTION" IN JUXTAPOSITION WITH PLEDGES TO CURB TERRORIST ACTIVITIES DIRECTED AGAINST ROK, MADE COMMITMENT WHICH WILL BE HARD TO FULFILL. ONE REPORT NOTED THAT IF GOJ FAILS TO MOVE ACTIVELY AGAINST CHOSEN SOREN, IT CAN BE SUBJECTED TO NEW ROUND OF PRESSURES FROM SEOUL; AT SAME TIME, IF GOJ DOES ATTEMPT TO CRACK DOWN, IT LIKELY TO ENCOUNTER STORMY OPPOSITION AT HOME. ALL OF THIS, ACCORDING TO MEDIA, PRESAGES CONTINUING AND INTENSE DEBATE ON WHOLE RANGE OF KOREA-RELATED ISSUES, INCLUDING NATURE OF RELATIONS WITH BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH.

3. OPPOSITION PARTIES CONTINUE TO ATTACK WAY GOJ HAS SOUGHT TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES WITH ROK. JSP, IN CHORUS WITH JCP AND KOMEITO, HAS REPEATEDLY DECRIED ROK INTERFERENCE IN JAPANESE INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND OPPOSITION PARTIES GENERALLY HAVE CHARACTERIZED SHIINA VISIT AS "HUMILIATING." THEY ARE ALSO UNITED IN VOICING OPPOSITION TO ANY GOJ ACTION DIRECTED AGAINST CHOSEN SOREN. JSP PROMISES ONGOING CAMPAIGN AGAINST GOJ SUPPORT FOR ROK, AND ONE SOCIALIST DIET MEMBER HAS ANNOUNCED PLAN TO SUBMIT BILL TO DIET THIS FALL WHICH WOULD "SUSPEND AID TO UNDEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENTS." EVENING OF SEPTEMBER 12, RALLY SPONSORED JOINTLY BY JSP, JCP, KOMEITO, SOHYO, ET. AL., DREW REPORTED CROWD OF 30,000 (14,000 ACCORDING TO POLICE FIGURES). RALLY LEADERS DEMANDED RELEASE OF ROK POLITICAL PRISONERS AND REVISION OF GOJ AND ZAIKAI RELATIONS WITH ROK.

4. COMMENT: WITH IMMEDIATE CRISIS APPARENTLY RESOLVED, AND ASSUMING NO NEW CATALYTIC EVENTS, OPPOSITION WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE TO EXPERIENCE DIFFICULTY IN GENERATING GREAT POPULAR INTEREST IN KOREA ISSUE. HOWEVER, THEY ARE LIKELY TO KEEP TRYING IN POLITICAL ARENA AND IT APPEARS THAT GOJ HANDLING OF KOREAN PROBLEM WILL BE ONE OF DOMINANT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ISSUES IN COMING DIET SESSION. RECENT CONTRETEMPS ALSO MAY WELL SPARK DEBATE WITHIN LDP AS TANAKA CRITICS SEEK TO EXPLOIT SITUATION TO OWN ADVANTAGE. END COMMENT.
SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, PRESS COMMENTS, VISITS, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Type: TE
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